

Implementing Sustainability Information Technology (2010-2015)

Moving Information Technology
Forward

April 2011



Pierce County
Office of Sustainability

“The IT Department is ready to assist County departments implement technology that fosters sustainability via web-based citizen services, innovative wireless business applications and video/telecom conferencing solutions. IT will further sustainability goals by reducing data center power consumption with virtual server, cloud technologies and consolidated enterprise systems.”

Linda Gerull, Information Technology



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Moving Pierce County Government Forward

Since completing our internal Pierce County Sustainability Plan in 2009, my office looked for opportunities to fund a full-time Sustainability Manager to move our plan forward. We earned a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, and look forward to implementing the plan. Over the next five years, we will focus on three components of sustainability: education and public outreach, partnerships, and leading by example. This effort will ultimately save taxpayers' money by thinking through the life-cycle costs of our decisions and actions. All Pierce County employees will be asked to help make this a more sustainable place to live, work and play.

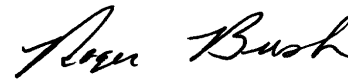


-Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive



2010 "Sustainability Week" Proclamation
No. R2010-47

Sustainability isn't just a buzz word – it's a team effort to make our government more fiscally and environmentally responsible. From adopting sustainable budgets to increasing the energy efficiency of government buildings, Pierce County embraces sustainability and is always looking for further ways to make positive changes.



-Roger Bush, Pierce County Council Chair

2015 County Sustainability Goals

- **Energy Efficiency:** Reduce by 15% electricity and natural gas use in County facilities over 2010 levels. All new County facilities will be built to a LEED Silver or better standard.
- **Employee Sustainability Training:** When surveyed 90% of Pierce County employees take sustainability into consideration in their jobs.
- **Transportation:** 50% of Pierce County general use fleet to be hybrid/electric/alternative fuel vehicles. 25% of Pierce County employees will telecommute, use public transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle, walk or drive electric vehicles to work.
- **Air Quality:** All areas of Pierce County are within compliance with federal air quality standards.
- **Green Purchasing and Recycling:** At least 50% of office products purchased will have recycled content. Reduce purchase and consumption of copier/printer paper by 15%. Increase recycling by 35%. Reduce the amount of landfill waste by 30%.
- **Water Quality and Quantity:** Reduce water use in our 43 owned buildings by 10%. On average Pierce County streams grade to a B- or better (Currently C).

Information Technology - Leading By Example

Energy Efficiency

- Utilize Verdiem power management software on 35% of County PCs.
- Purchase energy-efficient storage units (EECBG Grant funding) by June 2011.
- Purchase EPA Energy Star hardware such as monitors, PCs, and duplex printers.
- Implement virtual servers which will replace 200 physical servers.
- Replace 34 Netware servers by moving to a Windows File System.
- Implement duplex printing as a standard.
- Provide information, forms, and materials electronically.
- Evaluate printer inventory and change printing practices.
- Reduce the number of printed internal directories to departments by 45%.
- Reduce the size of the printed internal directory by only including department information.

Employee Sustainability Training

- Create a link to County and Department Sustainability efforts on our department webpage.
- Complete yearly Departmental Sustainability survey.
- Implement Wheels To Meals program.
- Assign employees to Green IT Committee to improve communications about sustainability.
- Educate all new employees on department sustainability practices.
- Encourage all employees to use Pierce Trips.
- Yearly employee updates on what our department is doing to improve our sustainability.

Air Quality

- Reduce vehicle travel by implementing on-line web services and video conferencing.
- Continually evaluate business practices to reduce carbon footprint.

Transportation

- Complete yearly Departmental Sustainability survey.
- On-line web services available for the public.
- Webcasts of all possible IT Partners briefings.
- Implement Wheels To Meals program.
- Reduce travel through video conferencing for meetings and training.
- Reduce travel through conference calls for meetings and training.



Water Quality

- Quality Water Services filter system/cooler in staff break room.

Greenhouse Gas Reductions

- Encourage staff to always select hybrid vehicles for county business related transportation.
- Continually evaluate business practices to reduce carbon footprint.

Green Purchasing and Recycling

- Always recommend that County departments purchase duplex printers.
- Provide electronic documents instead of paper.
- Always utilize PC Equipment Disposal program.
- Recycle all used print cartridges.
- Provide office recycling containers at all locations.
- Implement minimal packaging on IT equipment shipments to County departments.
- Eliminate 4,000 pages (8 reams) of printed paper each month by providing phone logs electronically.
- 50% of office products purchased will have recycled content.
- Sign the PlugLoad Solutions Pledge stating that we will take steps to reduce our energy use, become a leader in procuring efficient products, and reduce our impact on our shared natural resources.

2010 Information Technology Sustainability Snapshot

Department Size

- Employees: **124 employees**

Employee Sustainability Education and Training

- % of employees have filled out the sustainability survey: **84%**
- % of employees who take sustainability into consideration in their jobs: **69% yes**
- General Sustainability Training: **No**
- Education on what creates greenhouse gases and strategies for reducing: **No**
- Wood stove educational training: **No**

Energy Efficiency

- Building EnergyStar Score: **Merit Building 13 (leased building)**
- % reduction in energy use in office building: **Merit -2.1%**
- Building Energy Cost per Sq Ft: **Merit \$1.39**

Green Purchasing and Recycling

- % of office products that have recycled content: **25.6%; up from 17.6% in 2009**
- % Paper use: **27% reduction in paper use, spent \$913 less than in 2009**

Transportation

- Vehicles Operated by Department: **0**
- Hybrid/Electric vehicles: **0**
- Mileage Reimbursements: **15,942 miles, 1,920 miles more than in 2009**
- Gasoline use: **N/A**
- Fleet MPG: **N/A**